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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/554,733	05/19/2000	LEO MANS	30098.4	2996
30678	7590	03/11/2004	EXAMINER	
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP			WACHTEL, ALEXIS A	
SUITE 800			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1990 M STREET NW			1764	
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3425				

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/554,733

Applicant(s)

MANS ET AL.

Examiner

Alexis Wachtel

Art Unit

1764

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 20 January 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
(a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
(c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☐ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.


Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: _____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: The Applicant has amended the article claims to recite a sponge cloth made by an amine oxide process without being exposed to conditions where a blowing agent decomposes to form gaseous products and so as to cause a foam. Applicant asserts that the sponge cloth of Chevalier is stated as having a density of from 20-100 kg/cu meter, while the sponge cloth of the present invention made using an amine oxide process is exemplified in Example 1 and has a density of 109.6 kg/cu meter dry weight of 263 g/sq m and a thickness of 2.4mm and as exemplified in Example 2 has a density of 135.7 kg/cu meter dry weight of 380 g/sq m and a thickness of 2.8 mm. Thus, according to Applicant, Chevalier does not anticipate claims 1-5. However, sponge cloth structural parameters such as density, basis weight and thickness of Chevalier's sponge cloth are relatively easily optimized and/or altered through the use of differing amounts of cellulosic raw material, varying amounts of blowing agent as well as varying amounts of pressure in the cellulosic dough mold. As a result, having employed an amine oxide process as claimed is not seen to differentiate the structure of the Applicant's spongecloth over and above Chevalier's spongecloth.



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